

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 02360 01 OF 02 111134Z

44

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 DRC-01

AF-10 MC-02 AID-20 H-03 /115 W

----- 109572

R 111015Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9785

INFO USMISSION NATO

DOD

CSAF

USCINCEUR

USCINCLANT

DIA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 2360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, POUS

SUBJ: MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STAFF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 5, 1974, THE CHIEF OF STAFF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE MET CHIEF AIR FORCE SECTION, MAAG, AND GAVE HIM INFORMATION ON HOW GOP INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE (PAF). THE PROPOSED IMPROVMENTS ENVISAGE ONE EACH F-5 AND F-4 FIGHTER SQUADRON, POSSIBLY SOME T-38S, A T-41 SQUADRON AND A VASTLY IMPROVED AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM ALL AS A PART OF THE AZORES NEOGTIATIONS. HE THOUGHT THE MAAG SHOULD CONSIDER ANNUAL TRAINING FOR 10 JET FIGHTER PILOTS, TWO DOCTORS IN FLIGHT SURGEON TRAINING, TWO PILOTS IN ADVANCED FLYING SAFETY COURSES, AND ONE OFFICER IN SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1100 HOURS, JUNE 5, 1974, A MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF, PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING THE CHIEF, AIR FORCE SECTION MAAG-PORTUGAL (COL. WILKERSON) TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, PAF, GENERAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 02360 01 OF 02 111134Z

MANUEL DIOGO NETO.

A. THE INTRODUCTION WAS CORDIAL AND AMENITIES WERE SHORT. COL WILKERSON WAS ANTICIPATING A FREINDLY BUT PERFUNCTORY INTRODUCTION, AND WAS SURPRISED BY HASTE WITH WHICH NETO SWITCHED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. GENERAL NETO OUTLINED FOLLOWING PAF IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES WHICH INVOLVED THE US:

(1) THAT JET PILOT TRAINING IN THE US BE INCREASED FROM TWO TO TEN JET PILOTS PER YEAR. (PRESENT PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR TWO JET PILOT TRAINEES IN THE FALL 1974, BUT AN INCREASE TO THREE HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY OPERATIONS DIVISION, HQS., PAF.)

(2) THAT PAF OBTAIN ONE SQUADRON OF F-5S AND ONE SQUADRON OF F4S. GEN NETO SAID THESE AIRCRAFT ARE NEEDED TO REPLACE F-86S WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN AND TO STRESS THIS POINT HE CITED THE PREVIOUS DAY BAIL-OUT OF AN F-86 PILOT DUE TO FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM FAILURE.

(3) THAT T-41 AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE OBTAINED TO REPLACE THE DHC-1 CHIPMUNKS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY USED IN BASIC TRAINING.

(4) THAT IN THE FUTURE TWO MEDICAL DOCTORS PER YEAR SHOULD RECEIVE FLIGHT SURGEON TRAINING AT THE USAF SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE.

(5) THAT TWO PILOTS PER YEAR ATTEND ADVANCED FLIGHT SAFETY COURSES.

(6) THAT ONE OFFICER ATTEND A SENIOR STAFF COLLEGE COURSE EACH YEAR.

(7) THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ACQUIRING T-38S AS REPLACEMENT FOR THE T-33S.

(3) THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS PORTUGAL TO IMPROVE THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

B. GEN. NETO THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE AFOREMENTIONED IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 02360 01 OF 02 111134Z

GEN. COSTA GOMES, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE ADDED THAT PAF AND COSTA GOMES WANTED TO RECEIVE A GREAT DEAL MORE US MILITARY TRAINING SO "WE CAN THINK THE WAY YOU DO".

2. COL. WILKERSON SAID HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON PROPOSALS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE BUT PROMISED TO FORWARD THE INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICES OF THE US GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS

NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGES IN US POLICY VIZ A VIZ THE ARMS EMBARGO AND THEREFORE IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO MOST OF THE PROPOSALS. GEN. NETO REPLIED THAT HE WANTED TO EMPHASIZE THAT ALL THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PAF WOULD BE MADE IN THE METROPOLE (EUROPEAN PORTUGAL) AND THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD NOT APPLY TO THE OVERSEAS FORCES. HE ADDED THAT PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS (AFRICA) BY THE PAF IS EXPECTED TO BE PHASED DOWN AND THE PERSONNEL WOULD BE RETURNING TO PORTUGAL. HE SAID THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR DEVELOPING AN AIR FORCE CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL DEFENSE NEEDS, ITS ROLE IN NATO AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER NATIONS.

ASKED HOW THE PORTUGUESE INTENDED TO PAY FOR THESE IMPROVEMENTS, GEN. NETO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE F-5, F-4, T-41 AND AIR DEFENSE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE "A PART OF THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS".

4. COL. WILKERSON REPLIED THAT HIS OFFICE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH AND HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE PROPER FORUM FOR THESE PROPOSALS WOULD BE IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THOSE INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. GEN. NETO AGREED AND SAID (WITHOUT EXPLANATION OR ELABORATION) IT WAS INFORMATION THAT COL. WILKERSON WOULD HEAR ABOUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 LISBON 02360 02 OF 02 111142Z

44

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 DRC-01

AF-10 MC-02 AID-20 H-03 /115 W

----- 109659

R 111015Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 9786

INFO USMISSION NATO

DOD

CSAF

USCINCEUR
USCINCLANT
DIA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 2360

5. GEN. NETO STATED THAT THE TRAINING INVOLVING THE TEN PILOTS, FLIGHT SURGEONS, FLYING SAFETY OFFICER AND SENIOR STAFF COLLEGE TRAINEE SHOULD BE PART OF THE MAAG PROGRAM.

6. COL. WILKERSON EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRESENT PROGRAM IS NOT FUNDED TO SUPPORT INCREASES IN TRAINING OF THIS MAGNITUDE. HOWEVER, HE PROMISED TO FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR CONSIDERATION, COMMENT OR GUIDANCE. HE THEN ASKED IF GEN NETO THOUGHT THAT SOME OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE PAID FOR BY THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. GEN. NETO REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT "WORKED OUT" HIS "THOUGHTS" IN THAT AREA.

7. COL. WILKERSON ASSURED GEN. NETO THAT WITHIN THE PRESENTLY APPROVED PROGRAM HE WOULD BE WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE PAF PLANERS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE BEST TRAINING WITHIN THE FUNDS AVAILABLE.

8. GEN. NETO REPEATEDLY INSISTED THAT COLONEL WILKERSON CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY IF HE A PROBLEM OR NEEDED ANY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LISBON 02360 02 OF 02 111142Z

ASSISTANCE IN WORKING WITH THE PAF. HE OFFERED AIR TRANSPORTATION ANYTIME TO VISIT OVERSEAS AIR BASES IN AFRICA OR THE AZORES. OFFER WAS DECLINED.

9. COMMENT:

A. CLEARLY GEN. NETO USED COL. WILKERSON'S CALL AS A CALCULATED MEANS OF PASSING INFORMATION TO USG ON PAF OBJECTIVES, AND HIS HOPES FOR US PARTICIPATION. WE BELIEVE IT NOT UNLIKELY THAT ARMY AND NAVY HAS CONSTRUCTED SIMILAR "QUID PACKAGES".

B. THE PAF IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS ARE BELIEVED TO BE BASED UPON A GENUINE DESIRE TO UPGRADE THE AIR FORCE, WHICH GEN. NETO FEELS WILL BE PHASING OUT OF AFRICA. THIS DESIRE ALSO MAY REFLECT AN EXPECTED NEED TO RETAIN AND USE THE PERSONNEL RETURNING FROM AFRICA AND TO MAINTAIN AN AIR FORCE THAT WOULD COMPARE TO THE SIZE AND CAPABILITY OF THE FORCES OF OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS SUCH AS SPAIN OR GREECE.

C. IT IS CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT THAT P-3 AIRCRAFT

REPLACEMENTS FOR THE P2V5S WERE NOT MENTIONED. FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS THE PAF HAS MADE INQUIRIES AND INFORMAL P-3 REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS AS A PART OF THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS QUID. THE ACQUISITION OF REPLACEMENTS FOR P2V5S WAS INCLUDED IN GOP'S 1973 DPQ RESPONSE. THE FAILURE TO MENTION THE P-3 COULD HAVE BEEN AN OVERSIGHT. IT COULD ALSO PRESSAGE REASSIGNMENT OF THE ASW AIR MISSION TO THE PROTUGUESE NAVY IN THE COURSE OF SERVICE REORGANIZATION STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY.

D. DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO DESCRIPTION OF PAF'S OBJECTIVES AND DID NOT BY ANY MEANS CONSTITUTE A FORMAL REQUEST FOR MATERIAL AND TRAINING INVOLVED. STILL, GEN. NETO EXPECTS AN ANSWER OF SOME SORT. WE RECOMMEND COL. WILKERSON BE AUTHORIZED TO RESPOND TO GEN. NETO ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(1) GENERAL'S RAISING AZORES NEGOTIATIONS IS CLEARLY OUTSIDE MAAG'S RESPONSIBILITY (AS COLONEL MADE CLEAR IN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LISBON 02360 02 OF 02 111142Z

INITIAL CONVERSATION). ANY PROPOSALS FOR US PARTICIPATION IN THE PAF'S IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE PRESENTED THROUGH NORMAL GOVERNMENT CHANNELS, IN THE CONTEXT OF AZORES NEOGITATIONS.

(2) AS MANY OF THE TRAINING ELEMENTS OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM NECESSARILY DEPEND ON THE ACQUISITION OF NEW MATERIAL, IT SHOULD BE SIMILARLY CONSIDERED IN GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS CHANNEL.

(3) WITH REGARD TO THE TRAINING DISCUSSED WHICH IS NOT RELATED TO MATERIEL (E.E., DOCTOR, SAFETY OFFICER, AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF PILOTS), THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF GOP FUNDING POSSIBILITIES, MPA FUNDING, AND AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL (FYI: EDUCATION LEVEL OF PAF ENLISTED PERSONNEL IS VERY LOW).

10. REQUEST COMMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS. SCOTT

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL TRAINING, AIR FORCE, NEGOTIATIONS, AZORES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON02360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740149-1092
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740657/aaaabwmu.tel
Line Count: 267
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STAFF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE SUMMARY: ON JUNE 5, 1974, THE CHIEF OF STAFF PORTUGUESE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005